

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 15-18, 21-23, and 29 are allowed.

2. Since allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant is encouraged to submit formal drawings in response to this Office Action. The early submission of formal drawings will permit the Office to review the drawings for acceptability and to resolve any informalities remaining therein before the application is passed to issue. This will avoid possible delays in the issue process.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. None of the prior art of record either individually or in combination teach the following:

-displaying the response data related to the completion date offers of the receivers together with a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers.

The present invention discloses a messaging processing system, where the leader transmits a message inquiring the process of the job assigned to each member, and each member returns a message reporting whether or not his or her job has been completed, the leader has to read messages of all members of the group. The allowable feature of displaying the response data related to the completion date offers of the receivers together with a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers is not disclosed by any prior art reference. The closest prior art, Oliver (US 5,907,490) shows a system where input by a user occurs when task data is initially entered thereby resulting in monitoring and assessing the performance of a project by entering task data for each task of the project in a project management software,

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obtaining the task data from the project management software, calculating a current earned value position, obtaining historical earned value positions if any exists, and displaying the current earned value position and any historical earned value positions. At best, Oliver discloses system-generated data presentation based on calculated data, and not a response generated from data inputted into a space as required by each of the independent claims. The next closest prior art, Nakaoka (US 6,092,048) discloses task execution support system where the user can execute a task while determining the contents of action and the procedure of action in accordance with a progress of a task without defining a series of action procedure from the start to end of a task with all sorts of actions in the task listed-up as a network type flow before a task to be supported is started. However, Oliver and Nakaoka both fail to disclose the feature of displaying the response data related to the completion date offers of the receivers together with a decision result with respect to the completion date offers of the receivers. This distinct feature has been added to independent claims 1, 15, 17, 21 and 22, and renders them and all claims that depend from them allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

- Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

A. R. B.
October 20, 2009

/Akiba K Robinson-Boyce/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3628